

### **INTERVIEW SUMMARY**

This Interview Summary is further to the Examiner's Interview with the undersigned Applicants' Representative on January 21, 2004. A Proposed Amendment was submitted prior to the Interview. During the Interview, the amendments to Claims 6-11, 15, and 17 were discussed with respect to the 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2. Independent Claims 16-17 and 23 (as amended in the Proposed Amendment) were also discussed with respect to the 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejection. Applicants' Representative pointed out that U.S. Patent Nos. 5,849,247 ("Uzan"); 5,048,957 ("Berthold"); 5,643,535 ("Smethers"); and 5,637,874 ("Honzawa") do not teach or suggest all of the limitations of amended Claims 16-17 and 23. In particular, it was noted that Uzan, Berthold, Smethers, and Honzawa do not teach or suggest a light-proof shoe that is directly pressed against a planar rim of a vessel. The Examiner indicated that the proposed amendments would overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2 and 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejections.

### **REMARKS**

Claims 6-11, 15-17, and 19-23 are pending in the application. Applicants have amended Claims 6-11, 15-17, and 23 in this Amendment. Examination and consideration are respectfully requested.

#### **Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112**

In the Office Action dated October 21, 2003, Claims 6-11, 15, 17, 19-21, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2, as being indefinite.

Applicants have amended Claims 6-11, 15, and 17 to overcome this rejection.

#### **Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103**

In the Office Action dated October 21, 2003, Claims 16-17, 19-21, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Uzan in view of Berthold, Smethers, and Honzawa.

Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claims 16-17 and 23 overcome this rejection. As discussed during the Interview, Uzan, Berthold, Smethers, and Honzawa do not teach or suggest, among other things, a light-proof shoe that is directly pressed against a planar rim of a vessel.

Claims 19-21 depend from independent Claim 17, and are therefore allowable for the same and other reasons.

#### **Allowable Subject Matter**

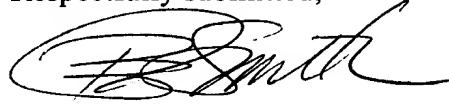
Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that Claims 6-11 and 15 are allowable.

Applicants will comment on the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance after all of the pending claims are allowed.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the above remarks, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Billie Jean Smith", written in a cursive style.

Billie Jean Smith

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